September 14, 2026

Council President Mr. Martin called the September 14, 2026 Belpre City Council meeting to order at 6:31 pm. The roll was called with the following members present: Mr. Ambrozy, Mr. Cassady, Mrs. Dennis, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Locke, and Ms. Riffle. Also, present were Mayor Abdella, Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes, City Auditor Mrs. Campbell, City Law Director Mr. Webster, and Clerk of Council Mrs. Meredith. Absent from the meeting was Councilman Seebaugh and City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan.

Council President Mr. Martin asked everyone to please rise for the Prayer and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Stump gave the invocation and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Mr. Martin asked all present if you have cellphones or any electronic devices to please turn them off or to vibrate so it won't interfere with the recording.

If you plan to address council this evening, please rise, come to the podium, state your name clearly so the clerk can get your information, and address council.

Council President Mr. Martin asked for a motion for the August 24, 2026 meeting minutes. Mrs. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes of August 24, 2026 as presented and by-pass the reading. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Reports of City Officials:

Mayor Abdella presented her report before council. It is as follows:

Mr. President Good evening:

Since our last meeting we have been working on a variety of items. We are working to identify locations for the BAV to be able to start a veteran flag program. We are in full swing for our Christmas Market planning. We will be welcoming the Christmas Carousel back to the park this year. We will be seeking sponsors, to allow families to continue to enjoy the time together.

I also attended the Belpre Area Chamber of Commerce Breakfast as well as a ribbon cutting at Bob's Market. Such great things happening in our chamber and in our businesses. This past week I attended the Mayors Partnership for Progress meeting in Frankfort, Ohio. The Mayors Partnership is celebrating 30 years of serving our Appalachian Communities. I also had the pleasure of participating in the County 911 Memorial service with our Police and Fire departments.

Michael was on site from EDG to show us how the Water Model is going to function. This tool is going to be a great asset to our community as we plan our water projects and where we need capacity for future work and fire suppression.

We continue to meet with perspective business owners looking for opportunities in our community.

1" water meters that are not needed. What do I need to do to sell them? The meters were bought in 2013. In my mind we have 150-175 meters that we will never use, at least not before they expire. At the Mayor's Partnership meeting I told them I was going to have a fire sale and that I could probably work out something with them if anyone could use 1" water meters. There were three other mayor's that were excited about that and was interested in purchasing them if you allow me to sell them. They also asked that next year when I get ready to order meters if they could order them with us to make it cheaper.

Union discussions are getting underway and will be completed by mid-October.

I wanted to update you and thank you for your support at the last meeting related to the grants I was applying for. Each one was submitted on time and was very well received. I am very appreciative of the organizations that wrote support letters for me. The upgrades in the park are welcomed by all. We even had a visit from the commissioners and a visit from one of the funders to see our great work.

This weekend is the Belpre High School XC race, the city will be welcoming visitors from across the state. This is a well-attended event and teams love running near the river.

At this time, Chief Stump would like to say a few words.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Abdella – Mayor

Chief Stump was excited to announce before council the status of the Marc's Radio. As you know we are the only department in the county that is not under the Marc's Radio. Obtaining the system on our own would cost anywhere from $350,000 to $500,000. The cost of the radio's was what was killing us on the pricing. One hand held radio cost approximately $4,300. Looking at that it was a monumental task to take on. I was at a police chief's meeting and the Highway Patrolman Coye Layman informed me that they had just got new radios. I asked them what they did with their old ones and he told me that they were shipped back to the state in the warehouse. I asked what we could do to see if we could get some of the radios. He reached out and I wrote a letter to see if I could get a hold of about 15 radios. The state accepted that and I went to pick them up and they informed me that instead of 15 radios, I would be receiving 25, along with 4 boxes of accessories. I got back and inventoried the boxes, batteries, mics,

antennas, chargers, etc. and it came to $139,000 worth of equipment from the State of Ohio. The only thing it cost me was the gas to drive up and pick it up. I want to thank Coye Layman for opening the door and the State of Ohio for giving us the Marc Radios.

Our new officers that we recently hired from Marietta are just crushing it. One officer, Patrolman Hinton is getting ready to come off of his probation here at the end of this month. The department is just moving forward. We are getting drugs, guns, putting people in jail. The state of the department is just doing great.

He also announced that we will be receiving a Breacher door for training for both the police and fire departments.

Mayor Abdella stated that the Chief brought me his statistics from last year and the department is ahead on writing tickets. The clerk can attest that they are keeping her busy.

Mr. Ferguson asked if we could do a voice vote on the 1" water meters as they are surplus just like the three vehicles that we want to sell. Mr. Webster asked how it was done in the past. He was informed by voice vote. Mr. Webster stated that since it is going to another municipality, he didn't see any reason that we couldn't do that again. If we can't get rid of them to another municipality we might have to use another meth ology. President of Council Mr. Martin asked how we would set the price for them? Mayor Abdella stated that the cost was figured by the purchase amount, minus 10% reduction per year (They were already 3 years old). We purchased them for $214.78 and it would still be a little ahead of what we are paying for the ¾" meters right now.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion for a voice vote to sell the 1" water meters to other municipalities per Mayor Abdella. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes presented his report before council: RE: Safety Service Update.

- Code Enforcement Activity since August 24, 2026: Code Violations – 7 and Zoning Permits – 28.
- The O'Neill Center donated a 2016 Dodge Caravan (119K miles) to the Belpre Senior Center. The van is currently being detailed and will be wrapped prior to being put into service.
- Soil boring for the water tank is scheduled to occur on September 22, 2026.

I respectfully request permission to list the following city vehicles for sale on Gov Deals. Each vehicle has reached the end of their useful life.

1. 1996 Ford 35C Passenger Van/VIN#FDKE30HOTHB69552 (Senior Center)

2. 2008 Dodge Ram Truck/3D6WH46D08G247752 (Street Department)
3. 2010 Isuzu w/Schwarz Sweeper/JALE5W160A7901647 (Street Department)

Brian P. Rhodes – Safety Service Director

Ms. Riffle made a motion for a voice vote to allow the SSD to list the above-mentioned city vehicles for sale on Gov Deals. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

City Auditor Mrs. Campbell reported the following before council:

- Went to a ribbon cutting ceremony for Bob's Market new parking lot
- Attended Washington County Fair and Sternwheeler Festival
- Volunteered with the Washington County Harvest to Hope on Tuesday and Thursday of last week and got to pick up food and deliver to churches and other rehab facilities. Also get to visit with pigs at the end with the fruit and vegetables that were not wanted. This was a fun and informative experience, and it was amazing to have food and people both getting a second chance and Hope.
- Working with Mayor and department head to start reviewing the 2027 budget

City Council:

No reports to be approved at this time.

City Law Director Mr. Webster had no report.

City Treasurer Mrs. Nolan was absent. No report was given in her absence.

Communication and Petitions: None

Reports of Standing Committee:

Mr. Ferguson Finance/Audit Committee had no report.

Mrs. Dennis, Police and Fire Committee reported that she had attended the Ribbon Cutting of the new parking lot at Bob's Market. From her previous meeting that was held on August 17, 2026, Mrs. Dennis announced that she has requested that legislation be drawn by the law director. Mrs. Dennis also stated that there has been a Muriel painted on the wall on Campus Drive as you drop down the hill toward the high school.

At this time, Mrs. Dennis made a motion to excuse Mr. Seebaugh from this evening's meeting. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

Mr. Locke, Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer reported that the street guys have been busy patching pot holes and mowing.

Mr. Ambrozy, Utilities Committee reported that he attended several meetings since our last council meeting. On August 25, 2026 I met with Brian Rhodes to review the work by Centrix's. It was decided at the meeting to hold off on the studies. On August 27, 2026 he attended a meeting with Brian Rhodes and Mr. Barker at Buckeye Hills regarding the Southeastern Ohio Water Study that was conducted by the Ohio EPA. On September 3rd, 2026 I attended two meetings with EDG. One was the water model that they are developing for us. This will be a good tool for us in developing the city. The other meeting was the monthly EDG meeting. Mr. Ambrozy also stated that he also attended the Ribbon Cutting of the new parking lot at Bob's Market.

Mr. Seebaugh, Parks and Recreation Committee was absent. No report was given in his absence.

Mr. Cassady, Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee had no report.

Ms. Riffle, Rules Committee had nothing to report.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL – AGENDA items only – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: -

Ms. Riffle brought before council for second reading **AN ORDINANCE CREATING NEW REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION FOR BELPRE CODE ORDINANCES SECTION 505.08.** A vote was taken with all members of council present voting. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Riffle brought before council for first reading AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF BELPRE, OHIO. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye. This will lie over until the next meeting of council.

PERSON APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Larry Deem 212 Blennerhassett Avenue, Belpre appeared before council to invite the public, city officials and administrators to the Belpre Cornerstone Ceremony at Belpre High School on September 19, 2026 at 11:00am at the high school gym. The cornerstone ceremony will be performed by the Grand Lodge of the State of Ohio, assisted by Belpre Masonic Lodge #609, for the new school in Belpre.

Cathy O'Donnel #3 Bay Pointe Drive, Belpre announced before council the Cross County Race that will take place this Saturday beginning at 10:00 am at Civitan Park. She stated that this year there is a total of 844 runners which include 30 high schools, 30 middle schools and elementary

schools that will make the total around 900. A lot of these schools are new to this meet. She invited everyone to come to Civitan Park at 10am for the XC RACE and the high school at 11am for the cornerstone presentation ceremony.

Mayor Abdella addressed the Arm Tractor that was purchased in 2013 needing a gear box. The cost will be approximately $35,000 to fix. Mayor Abella asked if it could be used for something else like mowing, Chris informed her that it could be. They are trying to get someone hired to come in with an armed tractor to complete the mowing for this year until we get something worked out for next year.

Mayor Abdella also addressed 53 families outside of Belpre that are going to lose gas service very soon. She stated that she has been on the phone with Enbridge, Representative Ritter, Chavez, Ruley's Office, and Jobs and Family Services trying to find revenue dollars so families can go get help with transitioning to propane. President of Council asked if there is something council could do. Mayor Abdella to check and get back with Mr. Martin.

Mayor Abdella addressed the pothole as you are coming into Belpre on 618. She stated that it has been filled again. It is an Enbridge cut. We have had several calls about citizens getting busted tires.

Mr. Locke asked Safety-Service Director Mr. Rhodes if he has received the estimates on the swimming pool yet. Mr. Rhodes stated that he talked to Chris today and was told that he has tried contacting Buckeye Pools again today however they did not return his call. He stated that they are unable to pressure test at this time.

Mr. Locke also asked the SSD when Roberts Roofing are going to start roofing. Mr. Rhodes said that they were supposed to start next week however they will have to wait until its dry.

City Law Director Mr. Webster addressed the vehicle that was donated by the O'Neill Center.

Adjourn:

Ms. Riffle made a motion to adjourn from the regular council meeting at 7:06pm. A vote was taken with all members of council present voting aye.

President of Belpre City Council Mr. Martin _____

Clerk of Belpre City Council Mrs. Meredith _____